DUGANDIA, A NEW SNAKE GENUS FOR *COLUBER BICINCTUS* HERRMANN

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The snake species *Coluber bicinctus* Herrmann (1804, Obs. Zool. p. 276) has not previously been recorded from Colombia. A female measuring 785 mm., tail 195, was collected by my friend Paul H. Allen on Nov. 10, 1943, at Yurupari Falls, Vaupés River, Vaupés. It is now in the collection of the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales. Herrmann's type was without locality, and Duméril and Bibron (Erp. Gén. 7, 1854, p. 716) first mentioned a definite locality, Surinam, whence they had material. It has since been given the range of the Guianas and Venezuela, so that its occurrence in Colombia was to have been expected.

The specimen has 174 ventrals, a single anal, 74 caudals, 19-17-15 dorsals, 8-9 upper labials, 10 lower labials of which five are in contact with the anterior genials, 2+2 temporals, 2 preoculars, a subocular, and 3 postoculars (the orbit is separated from the labials). The maxillary teeth number 13, increasing posteriorly, followed after a gap by two longer ones. The head is light with vague darker mottling on the rostral and above, and with a black streak on the temporals. A black nape ring, interrupted ventrally, has an anterior point to the tip of the parietals and a corresponding indentation posteriorly. This is followed by a white ring and then by 16 paired black rings (or blotches with brown centers 6 scales long) on the body. These reach onto the ends of the ventrals, and are separated by interspaces which are made up of a white scale, six brown scales, and a white scale. The belly is white with much black marking which at first appears irregular but can be arranged as follows: midventral spotting, ventrolateral spots between the body rings, black edges of the body rings. On the tail the 11 pair of black rings are complete ventrally; the interspaces are white with only faint brown dorsally.

This snake is not a *Coluber* (type *constrictor*) in the modern sense. It is not a *Liophis* (type *cobella*), to which genus it was assigned by Duméril and Bibron. Jan, in 1863, (Arch. Zool. L'Anat. Fis. 2, p. 320) proposed a new snake genus *Lejosophis* for two species, *gigas*

(of southern South America) and *bicinctus,* but did not designate which should be considered type. Cope, in 1885 (Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. 22, p. 185), put forth the name *Cyclagras* as a substitute for *Lejosophis,* but again named no type nor did he mention any species by name. Boulenger, in the second volume of the Catalogue of Snakes (1893), used *Cyclagras* Cope in preference to *Lejosophis* Jan for *gigas* alone, thus fixing *gigas* as type of *both* generic names by making both genera monotypic. The long suffering *bicinctus* was put by him into *Urotheca* (type *dumerilii*). I have already (CALDASIA 10, p. 491) given the possible solutions of the type of *Urotheca,* and in none of them can *bicinctus* be a possible congener. My first opinion on examining the specimen was that it was a *Lampropeltis,* with which it agrees in physiognomy, in general pattern, etc., and I still consider it an aberrant *Lampropeltis,* but one so sufficiently different (gap in the mandibular dentition, no visible scale pits, orbit separated by suboculars from labials, range east of any other *Lampropeltis*) as to merit generic distinction.

I have examined specimens of *gigas* and have no hesitation in pronouncing *bicinctus* not congeneric with it. *Lejosophis gigas* is closely allied to *Xenodon,* and is a Xenodontine snake. The hemipenis of *bicinctus* has not been examined, but its resemblance to *Lampropeltis* suggests that it is Colubrine.

Thus a species described in 1804, a tolerably well known snake, is still without a generic name, although it can be placed is no known genus. I take pleasure, therefore, in naming the genus *Dugandia* for my accomplished friend Armando Dugand, Director of the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales of the Universidad Nacional in Bogotá, to whom I am indebted for a sojourn in Colombia and an opportunity to acquaint myself with some of its extraordinary richness in fauna. More formally:

Dugandia gen. nov.

TYPE: *Coluber bicinctus* Herrmann 1804.

DIAGNOSIS: Maxillary teeth 13-15, increasing posteriorly, followed after a gap by two more enlarged teeth; scales smooth, without pits, 19-17-15; anal single; subcaudals paired; orbit separated from labials by subocular; pattern of black-bordered semirings; general aspect similar to *Lampropeltis triangulum micropholis.*

RANGE: The only known species, *Dugandia bicincta,* the Guianas, Venezuela and south-eastern Colombia; probably northern Brazil.